

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-27 have been canceled (claim 3 having been previously canceled), while new claims 28-31 have been added.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101 and §112

In the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 4-27 were rejected under 35 USC sections 101 and 112 for various reasons. Applicants have canceled these claims and have added new claims 28-31. Applicants respectfully assert that the claims as now presented overcome these rejections. In particular support for the claims as now presented can be found at least in pages 8-13 with respect to Figure 1A. The devices could include devices such as, but not limited to, terminal multiplexers, add/drop multiplexers, matched nodes and the like (Page 8, paragraph 16). Applicants respectfully assert the present claims are directed to statutory subject matter and are definite as to pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which Applicant's claim as their invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Drawing Objections Under 37 CFR 1.83(a)

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicants assert that every feature of the invention specified in the claims as now presented is illustrated, such as but not limited to reference to Figure 1A. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 1-2 and 4-27 were rejected under 35 USC section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ramaswami et al (5781537) in view of Wu et al (2002/01781886). Applicants have canceled these claims rendering this rejection moot. Applicants have added new claims 28-31 and respectfully assert that these claims are not disclosed, taught or rendered obvious by either Ramaswami or Wu, whether taken alone or in any reasonable combination. Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact Jessica Smith at (972) 240-5324.

Respectfully submitted,
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